Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-156 (Previously Cancelled)

157.(Previously Amended) A method of communicating information from a calling party to a called party using a communication system that includes a telephone network operably connectable to a paging network and to a telephone answering apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a portable communication device to said called party, the portable communication device being pageable by the paging network;

initiating communication between said calling party and the telephone answering apparatus through the telephone network;

receiving shift keyed data comprising caller identification data supplied by said telephone network at the telephone answering apparatus;

transmitting said caller identification data from said telephone answering apparatus to said paging network;

transmitting said caller identification data from said paging network to the portable communication device; and

receiving said caller identification data transmitted from said paging network at said portable communication device.

158.(Previously Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein the telephone answering apparatus is connected to the paging network and said caller identification data is transmitted from said telephone answering apparatus to said paging network over a direct connection.

159.(Original) The method of Claim 157, wherein said caller identification data is transmitted from said telephone answering apparatus to said paging network over said telephone network.

160. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein said caller identification data supplied comprises numeric data.

#1 161. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein said caller identification data supplied comprises alphanumeric data.

162. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein said shift keyed data comprises FSK data.

163. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein said caller identification data is being supplied from an ISDN connection.

164.(Original) The method of Claim 157, wherein said step of transmitting said caller identification data from said telephone answering apparatus to said paging network is performed using DTMF signaling.

165. (Original) The method of Claim 157, wherein said step of transmitting said caller identification data includes verification from the calling party prior to transmission to said paging network.

166. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein said step of transmitting said caller identification data includes the entry of optional data from the calling party prior to transmission to said paging network.

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167. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 166, wherein said optional data is comprised of at least one of a voice, video, image or textual message.

168.(Original) The method of Claim 167, wherein said optional data is compressed prior to said step of receiving at said portable communication device.

169.(Original) The method of Claim 167, wherein said optional data is encrypted prior to said step of receiving at said portable communication device.

170.(Original) The method of Claim 166, wherein said optional data is comprised of a voice or video message which is transmitted to said portable communication device with said caller identification data.

171. (Original) The method of Claim 170, wherein said optional data is compressed prior to said step of receiving at said portable communication device.

172.(Original) The method of Claim 170, wherein said optional data is encrypted prior to said step of receiving at said portable communication device.

173.(Previously Amended) The method of Claim 166, further comprising the steps of:

storing said caller identification data and said optional data in contiguous memory locations in said portable communication device.

174.(Previously Amended) The method of Claim 166, further comprising the step of:

storing said caller identification data and said optional data in associated non-contiguous memory locations in said portable communication device.

175.(Original) The method of Claim 157, wherein said telephone answering apparatus, after receiving said caller identification data, initiates a call to said paging network utilizing said telephone network.

176.(Original) The method of Claim 175, wherein said telephone answering apparatus includes at least two lines connected to said telephone network, and wherein said call to said paging network is initiated before said calling party hangs up.

177.(Previously Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein the method further includes the step of comparing said received caller identification data with information stored in an associated memory to the telephone answering apparatus, then selectively transmitting to said paging network as a result of said comparison, said caller identification data.

#1 178.(Original) The method of Claim 177, wherein said caller identification data is transmitted to said paging network only if said received caller identification data matches an entry in said associated memory.

179.(Previously Amended) The method of Claim 157, further comprising the step of:

at said portable communication device, annunciating said caller identification data.

180.(Original) The method of Claim 179, further comprising the step of:

simultaneously displaying said caller identification data on a display of said portable communication device.

181.(Previously Amended) The method of Claim 157, further comprising the steps of:

within said portable communication device, storing said caller identification data; and

initiating a new connection over said telephone network by transmitting said stored caller identification data to said telephone network.

182.(Previously Amended) The method of Claim 157, further comprising the steps of:

within said portable communication device, storing said caller identification data; and

initiating a new connection over a cellular telephone network by transmitting said stored caller identification data to said cellular telephone network.

183.(Previously Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein said telephone network is a cellular communication network and said portable communication device comprises a combined cellular telephone device and pager device.

184.(Original) The method of Claim 183, wherein paging network transmits said caller identification data to said portable communication device utilizing a cellular communication network.

185.(Original) The method of Claim 157, further comprising the steps of:

indicating to said called party that a message has been received;

accepting a password entered by said called party into said portable communication device; and

providing at least said voice signals representative of said caller identification data to said called party only upon entry of a valid password.

186.(Original) The method of Claim 157, wherein said portable communication device comprises a portable computing device having radio communications capabilities.

187.(Original) The method of Claim 186, wherein said portable computing device comprises a personal digital assistant.

188.(Original) The method of Claim 186, wherein said portable computing device has two-way radio communications capabilities.

189.(Original) The method of Claim 157 further comprising applying said caller identification data to a voice synthesizer unit to generate voice signals representative of said caller identification data at said portable communication device.

190.(New) The method of Claim 166, further comprising the step of:

storing said caller identification data and said optional data in contiguous memory locations in said message center.

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191.(New) The method of Claim 166, further comprising the step of:

storing said caller identification data and said optional data in associated non-contiguous memory locations in said message center.